

# Design Guidelines for Satellite Dishes

## Rockford IL Historic Preservation Commission

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Satellite dishes have become common additions to both residential lots and nonresidential buildings. The older dishes span ten to eleven feet while the newest type of DBS dish measures only 18 inches in diameter. These are the types of things that become problematical in historic districts or on landmark sites. They clearly are not historical in character or appearance, but they have become common features in modern life, not unlike garages. The task for the Preservation Commission is to find the best way to accommodate these without compromising the integrity of a historic district or landmark.

A local preservation commission such as Rockford's may not prohibit the installation of satellite dishes or antennas according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). It may, however, regulate where a dish is placed on a designated property as long as the dish is located where it has optimal reception.

### ***Guidelines for satellite dishes and antennas***

- ♦ Ground-mounted dishes or antennas should not be installed in front yards or in readily visible side yards, nor should they be installed on rooflines that are readily visible from the main street on which the structure is located.
- ♦ The smaller, 18-inch dishes are more appropriate than the larger ones.
- ♦ The Historic Preservation Commission recommends that no more than one dish per dwelling unit be installed on any residential property.
- ♦ Ground-mounted dishes or antennas should be mounted as low to the ground as possible and screened by landscaping or fencing.
- ♦ Dishes or antennas should be a neutral color, black or gray in most circumstances. Other colors may be considered neutral if they blend with the surrounding dominant color, such as a white dish against a white house; if the color helps to camouflage the dish or antenna; and if the color is neither bright, reflective nor metallic.
- ♦ Dishes may not display advertising in any form except for a six-inch square area displaying the manufacturer's or distributor's name.
- ♦ Rooftop dishes or antennas must be installed so as to avoid damage to the roof covering. When they are removed, the roof covering must be appropriately repaired to maintain weather and water tightness.
- ♦ No exterior woodwork or trim detail shall be altered or damaged in the installation of a dish.
- ♦ Dishes no longer in use should be removed.

Adopted by the Rockford Historic Preservation Commission, May 1, 2007